

Sanctuary Advisory Council

Forty-first Meeting

Thursday, September 8, 2005

8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Honolulu International Airport

Inter-Island Conference Center

FINAL MINUTES

Attendance

Primary Council Members Present:

Jim Coon, Tom Friel, Becky Hommon, Eric Kingma, Marc Lammers, Teri Leicher, Terry O'Halloran, Sara Peck, Jeanne Russell, Mike Stanton, Don Thornburg, Terry White, Chris Yates.

Alternate Council Members Present:

Mary Donohue (for Bill Friedl), Hoku Johnson (for `Aulani Wilhelm), Iris Thompson (for Dean Watase), Reg White.

Excused:

Cindy Barger, Athline Clark, Liz Corbin, Nancy Daschbach, Bill Friedl, June Harrigan-Lum, Lou Herman, Dave Hoffman, Kimokeo Kapahulehua, Richard McCarty, Jerry Norris, Dick Poirier, Dean Watase `Aulani Wilhelm, Bob Wilson, Michelle Yuen.

Others Present:

HIHWNMS: Keeley Belva, Patty Miller, Naomi McIntosh, Jeff Walters, and Paul Wong.

PUBLIC: Marc Cline, John Corbin, Andrea Fujinaga, Kevin Fujinaga, Mary Grady, Seong Hwan Pae, Neil Sheehan, Neil Anthony Sims, Patrick Tomomai.

Distributed Materials

- Meeting Agenda
- Table of Contents
- Final Meeting Minutes (05/12/05)
- Meeting Action Items
- Sanctuary Manager's Report
- State Co-Manager's Report
- Education Committee Report, including: Draft Letter Supporting Education Cruises and HIHWNMS Staff Activities for Other Species
- Position Paper regarding Aquaculture off of Olowalu
- Draft Agenda for 2006 Chairs and Coordinators Meeting
- SAC Press Release regarding Hawaii Superferry

- Updated SAC Member Directory
- SAC News Website
- Booklet: *The Makings of the National marine Sanctuaries Act: A Legislative History and Analysis*

Call to Order

The purpose of this meeting is to deepen our understanding of activities in the Sanctuary and to review highlights from fiscal year 2005.

Council Chair Terry O'Halloran called the meeting to order at 8:45. Jim Coon lead the group in a *pule*. Teri Leicher then took role. There was not a quorum at that time, so the meeting continued as planned, however voting was suspended.

Terry O'Halloran announced that Council members Kimokeo Kapahulehua, Teri Leicher, and Jim Coon had all received awards recently. He congratulated Mr. Kapahulehua who was the recipient of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's Volunteer of the Year Award, and Ms. Leicher and Mr. Coon who were both nominated for the Ocean Recreation category for Hawaii's Living Reef Awards, an honor awarded to Ms. Leicher of Jack's Diving Locker.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the Council's May 12, 2005 meeting were not approved due to a lack of quorum.

Public Forum

Mr. O'Halloran asked the members of the public to introduce themselves.

Discussion on Reports and Updates

Chair's Report:

Mr. O'Halloran asked the Council members to review the Action Item Report (see attachment 1).

Sanctuary Manager:

Naomi McIntosh submitted a written report (see attachment 2). Ms. McIntosh gave a presentation to summarize the Sanctuary's programs throughout fiscal year 2005. She showed a video from KITV 4 News highlighting a story about a whale disentanglement response and rescue off of Maui. Eric Kingma told the council that WESPAC had recently begun a program to collect derelict fishing gear for recycling. Mr. O'Halloran commented on the sense of urgency to install more boater outreach signs. Ms. McIntosh showed another news clip from the education cruise on the NOAA Ship Hi'ialakai. Patty Miller, Maui Programs Coordinator, provided additional information to the council about the cruise and another education effort co-sponsored by the National Geographic Society on Coconut Island. Paul Wong, Operations Coordinator, updated the Council on plans for NOAA's Pacific Regional Consolidation project at Ford Island.

Sanctuary Co-Manager:

Sanctuary Co-Manager, Dr. Jeffrey Walters, submitted a written report (see attachment 3). Dr. Walters welcomed Chris Yates to the Council and highlighted a few items from the report. He explained some of the partnerships with NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO), including the addition of Dr. Mimi Olry to the Sanctuary staff. Dr. Walters also announced that new maps of the Sanctuary have been produced by the NMSP Pacific Islands Region and are available from him. Mr. Yates asked if he could brief the council at the next meeting. Ms. McIntosh agreed and also suggested that Tom Friel of NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement could present as well.

Conservation Committee:

Lou Herman, Conservation Committee Chair, was absent and gave no report.

Research Committee:

Marc Lammers, Research Committee Chair, told the Council about the aquaculture position that was developed by the research and conservation committees (see attachment 4).

Education Committee:

Jeanne Russell, Education Committee Chair, submitted a written report that included a staff activities chart and draft letter from the committee supporting education cruises in the Sanctuary (see attachment 5). Ms. Russell explained the Staff Activities chart, which was developed from a request during a research committee meeting. The chart will be forwarded to the sanctuary change committee and research committees.

Honolulu County:

No report was submitted. Honolulu County Alternate Mary Donohue told the Council that Sea Grant Alaska and Hawaii, in collaboration with the Sanctuary, are developing a guide entitled *Marine Mammals of Hawaii*.

Kaua`i County:

No report was submitted. Don Thornburg, Kauai County representative, said that the monk seal outreach efforts are continuing on the island and that the efforts have received a positive response around the island.

Maui County:

No report was submitted.

Hawai`i County:

No report was submitted.

Sanctuary Change Committee:

No report was submitted. Don Thornburg, Chair, asked for clarification on what the committee's charge was at this time. Ms. McIntosh said that until the staff

moved forward with Management Plan Review efforts, there was little for the committee members to focus on at this time.

Program Development Committee:

No report was submitted.

Vessel Collision Working Group:

No report was submitted.

Presentations

- Neil Anthony Sims, President, Kona Blue Water Farm—Kona Blue Water Farms is located off of the Kailua-Kona, Hawaii coast. The aquaculture company raises *Seriola rivoliana*, a species that is also known as amberjack or *kahala*. In his presentation, Mr. Sims said that Kona Blue Water Farms (KBWF) emphasizes a sustainable aquaculture environment and that the Kona coast was an ideal location because of its calm waters and proximity to harbors and necessary facilities. Dr. Walters commented that during the early planning of the facilities there was continuous communication between the company and the Sanctuary. The company's first harvest was on September 1, 2005 and took about 230 days for the fish to reach a harvestable age. KBWF plans to add four more cages in the future making a total of six submersible cages and two surface cages. Mr. Sims addressed some concerns about other species that may be attracted to the cages and said that they have only reported two dolphin pods that were within 100 meters thus far. Justin Viezbicke, West Hawaii Programs Coordinator for HIHWNMS has been assisting in monitoring activities around the cages. Mr. Sims also said that the feed is mostly soy and wheat with 40-45% fishmeal or oil and that there has not been any marine life that has become entangled in the cages, and added that the company had recently placed its first order for organic fish feed. He recommended that future proprietors consult with the SAC and the Sanctuary. Marc Lammers suggested that a group at Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology was tracking sharks with receivers and that a similar study might be the best way to monitor for shark activity around the fish cages. Dr. Lammers explained that the study uses acoustic tags with a signal that is picked up by receivers able to individually identify each tag.
- Seong-Hwan Pae, Korea Ocean Research & Development Institute—Dr. Pae is visiting several sanctuaries to study as a prototype for marine protected area system in Korea. He presented an overview of the current status of 400 protected areas in Korea and explained that there are many protected areas (for birds, wetlands, inter-coastal regions, ecosystems, national parks, etc.) that are managed by a variety of agencies that are not currently integrated. ACTION: Dr. Pae can be reached at shpae@kordi.re.kr or you may contact Keeley Belva for additional information.

Unfinished Business

- Aquaculture Recommendations—Marc Lammers, Research Committee Chair, explained to the council that following the last SAC meeting the research and conservation committees met via conference call to develop their recommendations addressing a proposed aquaculture venture off of Maui. He summarized the site proposed by Pacific Ocean Ventures (POV) and outlined the concerns in the position paper which indicated that the committees could not recommend this project at this time in the proposed location. He said that he appreciated the presentation by Kona Blue Water Farms and hoped that this current project could be evaluated for more information on future projects. Kevin Fujinaga of POV said that the company has accepted the Council's recommendation and is now looking into alternate locations, and one that they are considering is off of the Kona/Kohala coast of Hawaii. John Corbin of the Hawaii Aquaculture Development Program said that by considering these projects the Council is taking an active approach to these issues and could be in a leadership role for future endeavors. Mr. Fujinaga added that the company is looking for suggestions of ideal locations within the sanctuary's boundaries and asked if the council could advise to that effect. It was clarified that HIHWNMS is not a regulating agency, but that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office and State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) issue the permits. In addition, the space is leased by DLNR, thus Dr. Walters has been asked to review proposals by his agency and was involved in the permitting processes. Ms. McIntosh said that there is an opportunity to use KBWF as a study area to develop monitoring protocols for humpback whales. Dr. Walters expressed concern with the footprint size of the proposed structure including mooring lines and that whales cannot co-exist in the same space as the cage. Jim Coon also pointed out that there are many industries that use the same area, especially for whale watching, thus it is a socioeconomic concern as well. Dr. Walters pointed out that one of the missions of the sanctuary is also to support existing uses. Council members suggested making a gradation system of usage areas for the Sanctuary—for example: based on the parameters of the project, this location is off limits or this location fits best. Mr. O'Halloran said that the SAC has a responsibility to make a recommendation to possible proposals in a timely manner. Members also felt that more research was needed including additional aerial surveys. Patrick Tomomai, POV's attorney, urged the council to set up a policy so that potential companies could make a determination of intent. He clarified that the company was considering other possible sites in the sanctuary and that they would like to have a list of what sites were feasible for their project. He urged the council to develop a policy on where. Ms. McIntosh responded that she understood that POV wants to move forward with their plans, however she urged the company to consider sites outside of the

sanctuary. Dr. Walters added that since Aquaculture Development Program (ADP) director John Corbin indicated that ADP does not suggest sites to companies, it seems inappropriate for the sanctuary to do so. Mr. O'Halloran asked to keep the communication open between POV and the Council and he asked POV to provide information on the proposed new site for the sanctuary's consideration.

- Letter Supporting Education Cruises—Education Committee Chair, Jeanne Russell said that since the Council was unable to vote on the letter, the education committee would send the letter from the committee only.

New Business

- SAC Selection Committee—The Chair asked for volunteers to be on an ad-hoc committee to review applications for new members. Volunteers were: Terry White, Sara Peck, Becky Hommon, Jeanne Russell, and Jim Coon.
- SAC Retreat—The Chair asked for volunteers to be on an ad-hoc committee to plan the Council Retreat. Volunteers were: Dick Poirier, Teri Leicher, and Jeanne Russell. Members then suggested some topics for the retreat including: legislative committee lead by Jim Coon and Reg White, budget planning, aquaculture, data, and quorum requirements.
- SAC Chairs and Coordinators Meeting—Mr. O'Halloran told the Council that the meeting is planned for April 2006 in Washington, DC. He added that in addition to the chair, a second member of the council is invited to attend and he asked the members to begin thinking of who should be the best person to go. Mr. Coon said that part of the idea behind inviting a second person was to have a continuation of people who had attended in the past, so as to carry on the knowledge and discussions from previous years. The members agreed that since Mr. Coon had chaired the SAC for many years, he would be an ideal person to attend.

Public Forum

- There was a letter that was read during the meeting from Dennis Fitzpatrick expressing the importance of pump-out facilities. Dr. Walters said that DLNR is proposing to have a gravity feed system at Ma'alaea Harbor on Maui. ACTION: Ms. Belva will send the letter that was approved by the Council at the last meeting to the listed recipients.

Announcements

- Keeley Belva, Council Coordinator announced that the application period for Advisory Council seats was still open, and applications were available from her or on the website.

Adjournment

Council Chair, Terry O'Halloran, adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Attachment 1

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS Advisory Council Action Item Report

Action Item	Date	Lead	Accomplishments	Next Steps	Deadline	Completed?
Council members asked to have existing aquaculture facilities give a presentation at the next meeting	12-May-05	Keeley		None	8-Sep-05	
The conservation and research committees will continue to discuss the proposal from Pacific Ocean Ventures to install a aquaculture facility in the Sanctuary.	12-May-05	Marc, Lou	The conservation and research committees issued a position paper that was distributed to Pacific Ocean Ventures representatives on 8 Jul 05.	The conservation and research committees will present their position paper to the Council.	8-Sep-05	
The Council voted to write a letter to Peter Young urging the inclusion of wastewater discharge facilities in the currently planned harbor improvements statewide.	12-May-05	Jeff		Jeff will give an update at the September Sac meeting.	8-Sep-05	
The Council voted to send out a press release and a copy of their resolution regarding the whale avoidance policy from Hawaii Superferry.	12-May-05	Keeley	The press release was sent on 28 Jul 05.	None	8-Sep-05	Yes
The Council requested to include research as a program priority for the sanctuary's FY06 budget.	12-May-05	Naomi			8-Sep-05	
Council members asked to invite Pacific Ocean Ventures to present another council meeting.	17-Mar-05	Keeley	The representative from POV was invited and is presenting at the May 12 SAC meeting.	None	ASAP	Yes
The entire Research Committee Report needed to be provided to the Council as it was missing a page.	17-Mar-05	Keeley	The report was emailed on 28 Mar 05.	None	ASAP	Yes
The Superferry resolution should be signed and distributed to the listed recipients	17-Mar-05	Jim/Keeley	The resolution was distributed to the Sanctuary managers and asked to be forwarded to the other recipients.	The resolution was distributed in the July press release from the SAC.		Yes
The Council requested that a copy of the SAC Charter be provided to the members as a reminder of the guidelines relating to member conduct.	17-Mar-05	Keeley	The charter was emailed to the Council members on April 25 and is also available on the website.	Distribute to Council Members.	12-May-05	Yes
Jeff Walters was asked to provide an update on recent cruise ship discharge violations and information on the MOU.	17-Mar-05	Jeff		Provide an update	12-May-05	
A motion passed to expedite the anonymous reporting effort encompassing the Ocean Tourism Coalition and the Research Committee	20-Jan-05	Naomi	This effort is in progress.	Coordinate with the other groups involved.	17-Mar-05	
The Council voted to write a letter asking DLNR to expedite the installation of ramp signs at all small boat harbors around the state and note that DOBOR is willing to help with installation.	20-Jan-05	Reg	7 signs will be up by Feb. 28, and move quickly to get others up. Versions of signs for self posting, we will print for their use--next week.	Draft Letter--No letter was drafted, however 5 signs were installed as of 5/5/05	17-Mar-05	Yes

Attachment 2

**Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
Manager's Report
September 8, 2005**

Council Updates

Maui Sanctuary Volunteer and Sanctuary Advisory Council Member Kimokeo Kapahulehua was named Volunteer of the Year by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation at an awards dinner in Washington, DC. "Uncle Kimokeo" has worked to re-introduce native plants, restore sand dunes, and protect coral reefs. In addition, he practices many Hawaiian cultural traditions and conducts educational activities at the sanctuary and Ko'ie'ie Fishpond fronting the sanctuary's Kihei office and education

compound. He is known for his efforts to rebuild the Ko'ie'ie Fishpond and serves on the Sanctuary Advisory Council. Jerry Stowell, also of Maui and the Sanctuary's Kihei Education Center Coordinator, was also a nominee.

Education and Outreach

A. *Marine Option Program Interns Support Sanctuary Education and Outreach*

The University of Hawaii Marine Option Program student interns that spent the whale season working alongside Oahu Programs Coordinator, Christine Brammer completed their student internships. The outreach and education program on O`ahu was bigger and better than ever this whale season because of the involvement of the interns: Breana Martin, Kristin Wilkinson, and Duilia Mora. Each received their Marine Option Program Certificate because of their work with the Sanctuary.

Lecture series

On June 14, the Maui office hosted a free evening public lecture. This lecture focused on protecting Hawaii's hawksbill sea turtles. Cheryl King from Hawaii Wildlife Fund (HWF) covered background information on some of the nesting females who have come to Maui, the process of nesting and hatching, turtle track recognition, and HWF ongoing research and protection efforts. HWF is currently trying to repair coastal fences along Kealia Pond for the upcoming nesting season to keep turtles from crossing on to a nearby highway. Approximately 35 people attended this lecture.

On June 15th, West Hawaii Marine Conservation Coordinator Justin Viezbicke partnered with Holualoa and Kona Public Library on the Island of Hawaii to participate in their reading and activity programs for local kids on their summer break. Justin had the kids do whale drawings to provide a learning opportunity to talk about whale anatomy and how each body part helps humpbacks function in their environment.

Kauai Programs Coordinator Jean Souza and the sanctuary's education corps of volunteers conducted 16 in-school presentations from January through June. Approximately 550 students from kindergarten through grade twelve in 34 classes at eight schools were reached. The outstanding photos and video clips in various versions of the "45-Ton Talk About Hawaii's Humpback Whales" mesmerized and inspired the students with information on whale behavior, research activities and findings, disentanglement capabilities, and whale watching guidelines. Teachers and visiting parents were also enthralled by the presentations.

Justin Viezbicke presented two lectures to Hawaii Preparatory Academy high school students on July 19. The first presentation provided background information about the sanctuary and the exciting research that the Sanctuary is doing on the Big Island. The second presentation was on the marine mammals found in Hawaiian waters and how to identify the individual species.

New Sanctuary Displays on Kauai

Jean Souza installed two temporary photo displays for the annual Kauai Family Ocean Fair and at the Princeville Public Library on the island's north shore. The exhibit will feature information on the endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal. Two other photo displays, of the sanctuary and humpback whales, and the near-stranding of melon-headed whales in Hanalei Bay were featured at Princeville Library in January. Since January, four of the public libraries on Kauai have invited Jean to be a featured lecturer, with her "45-Ton Talks About Hawaii's Humpback Whales" drawing in crowds of 25-80 people per session. The audiences have included local residents, as well as uninformed visitors, youth organizations, and preschoolers. As such, post-lecture activities have sometimes included hands-on activities geared for various age groups. Humpback whale posters and educational materials were also distributed. Three of the four events were coordinated in celebration of National Library Week; one was in celebration of Oceans Day.

8th Annual Kauai Family Ocean Fair

Jean Souza reports that over 1,000 attended the 8th Annual Kauai Family Ocean Fair at Kilauea Lighthouse on Saturday, 30 July. The main focus of this year's fair was marine mammal conservation on Kauai and featured information and activity booths by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources/NOAA Fisheries, the Hawaiian Islands Stranding Response Group, Save Our Seas/ReefCheck/REEF, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Sanctuary. Fair co-sponsors were HIHWNMS, Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, and Kilauea Point Natural History Association.

Maui Sanctuary Education Center

The Sanctuary's Maui site has hosted a variety of education groups throughout the summer. One group of teachers from New York spent a day at the Sanctuary participating in a session the sanctuary program and conducted a monitoring activity with the Native Hawaiian fishpond that is adjacent to the site. In addition, the site hosted a group of college students from Japan who participated in a day of cultural and sanctuary lessons. Two groups of students from the Maui Youth Correctional Center also participated in water quality and water science lessons.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary in partnership with the State of Hawaii Department of Education is conducting a yearlong program with high school students of the Myron B. Thompson and Kihei Charter Schools on Maui. Students are able to earn credits by participating once a week in a variety of monitoring projects in the Sanctuary waters.

Science and Rescue

SPLASH Makes International Connections

David Mattila, Science and Rescue Coordinator, attended the spring meeting of the SPLASH (Structure of Population, Levels of Abundance and Status of Humpback Whales) steering committee. This meeting was hosted by the regional coordinator for Mexico, Jorge Urban, and his students at the autonomous University of Southern Baja California. The three-day meeting was partially supported by NOAA (Fisheries and Sanctuaries), and

by the Convention for Environmental Cooperation, a side accord to NAFTA. The meeting highlighted the success of the Summer 2004 SPLASH field season, and this winter's (2005) field seasons in Asia, Hawai'i, Mexico and Central America. The meeting culminated with an "end of the season" SPLASH cruise in the waters off of La Paz, Mexico, during which six very late season humpbacks were found, along with three blue whales (including a mother and calf) and a brydes whale. The cross-cultural event also provided an opportunity for the Mexican students to interact with members of the steering committee, whom they only new through their scientific papers, resulting in some summer training opportunities in the U.S. for the students.

David Mattila and Sanctuary Manager Naomi McIntosh participated in a SPLASH Asia symposium held in Tokyo, Japan at the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology. The symposium was sponsored by Ogasawara Marine Center in collaboration with the Sanctuary.

Whale researcher Saeko Kumagai of Japan concluded six months of volunteer work with the sanctuary's SPLASH research team. Saeko leaves Hawai'i to return to Japan where she will serve as a marine mammal observer on the Japanese fisheries research cruise in the western North Pacific.

David Mattila recently provided real time advice to the large whale disentanglement team off the west coast of Australia. The team was able to successfully release the entangled humpback whale

2005 Humpback Whale Field Season Ends in Hawaii

The humpback whale field season officially ended in May and the sanctuary's vessel the Manacat is now back on O`ahu for maintenance and repair. Now the SPLASH research team will be working full throttle on data management and fluke matching in order to match an estimated 1,600 flukes, and their associated data, before the end of June.

Sanctuary Science and Rescue Coordinator attends 57th IWC Meeting

David Mattila attended the 57th meeting of the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission, hosted by the government of Korea in Ulsan, South Korea. He participated in the Sub committees on Bycatch, Southern Hemisphere humpbacks, the Environment and Whale watching.

David Mattila was invited to present two presentations at a workshop on the establishment of a South Korean marine protected area for coastal whales. The workshop was scheduled after the International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee meeting concluded in Ulsan, South Korea.

SPLASH making news on the West Coast

David Mattila participated in a joint Sanctuaries and NOAA Fisheries press conference on the large, international whale research project SPLASH held in California last week. The press conference, announcing the beginning of the SPLASH summer research program along the California coast, also featured Jay Barlow of NOAA Fisheries and John Calambokidis, the west coast's principal humpback and blue whale researcher. Seven television stations from the LA-Southern California area covered the event.

Partnerships

National Marine Educators Association Meeting

Maui Programs Coordinator Patty Miller and Christine Brammer under the direction of National Education Coordinator Michiko Martin, were the lead staff for the National Marine Sanctuary Program's co-sponsorship of the annual conference of the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) held on Maui. Over 500 participants registered and attended the plenary and concurrent education sessions, field trips, exhibits, auction, and other events. The Pacific Islands Region sponsored an evening event at the Maui Ocean Center on Friday, July 15. Patty, Chris and Kauai Programs Coordinator Jean Souza presented three of the over 230 presentations during 3-days of concurrent sessions. The conference drew registrants from all regions of the U.S. and internationally.

Christine Brammer also worked with representatives from Hawaii Sea Grant and the Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative to develop an activity book for the National Marine Educator's Association Conference. The project was initiated by Outreach and Education Coordinator Dr. Susan Baker of NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Service.

II. 7th Annual E Malama I Ke Kai Ocean Awareness Festival

Christine Brammer, and student interns, Breena Martin and Kristin Wilkinson participated in the 7th annual E Malama I ke Kai Ocean Awareness Festival, which was held in Kapiolani Park in Waikiki. The event is sponsored each year by Punana Leo o Kawaiaha'o, a native Hawaiian charter school that continues to teach its students using the Hawaiian language. This year Chevron co-sponsored the event. The focus of the day was to increase ocean-related education while celebrating the efforts of the charter schools around the island. The sanctuary has participated in this event since its onset.

Year of the Living Reef - Coral Reef Outreach Network

Christine Brammer participated as a subcommittee member on the planning team for the upcoming Year of the Living Reef Awards Luncheon that was held on August 17, 2005. The Sanctuary is a member of the Coral Reef Outreach Network, which is sponsoring the effort.

Hawaii Boat Show

The Sanctuary participated in the annual Hawaii Boat Show held in Ko`olina on the island of O`ahu. Each year the sanctuary participates in order to spread the word to boaters on how to operate safely on the water around humpback whales and other wildlife. This year, the sanctuary also provided a formal presentation on the topic each day. This event allows the sanctuary an opportunity to reach many recreational ocean users that

may or may not be aware of the sanctuary and the humpback whale approach regulations.

Sanctuary participates in NOAA Fisheries Cetacean Workshop **David Mattila, Naomi McIntosh, and Sanctuary State Co-manager Jeff Walters attended a 3-day workshop on the development of a cetacean research plan for NOAA Fisheries' Pacific Islands Science Center. The workshop, hosted by NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Science Center provided a review of cetacean research efforts, research information gaps, and emerging issues. The HIHWNMS participants presented information on humpback whales, SPLASH Research, vessel whale interactions and sanctuary perspectives on research. The workshop was held in the new conference facility at Sanctuary office in Hawaii Kai, Oahu.**

Sanctuary participates in Marine Mammal Necropsy Workshop **Marine Conservation Specialist David Nichols, Justin Viezbicke, and Jean Souza attended a marine mammal necropsy workshop. The workshop was hosted in Honolulu on June 11, by the Hawaiian Islands Stranding Response Group (HISRG), a NOAA-approved organization responsible for stranding responses for non-listed species. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Terry Spraker of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Colorado State University, and Dr. Robert Braun, HISRG President. The workshop covered a wide range of information pertaining to marine mammal necropsies. The first part of the workshop focused on human and cetacean health and safety issues, basic cetacean anatomy, and necropsy procedures. The afternoon was spent participating in the necropsy of a striped dolphin found dead recently on Oahu. Others attending the workshop included NOAA Fisheries personnel and HISRG volunteers from the Big Island Oahu, and Kauai.**

Radisson Kauai Beach Resort

A partnership between the Kauai Office and the Radisson Kauai Beach Resort resulted in the sanctuary's free use of the resort's ballroom and meeting room facilities for public lectures and volunteer training sessions for groups of 75-150 on five occasions from November through June. The value of the resort's contribution exceeded \$2,000. In exchange, the sanctuary staff and volunteers conducted two shore-based whale watching and provided interpretation at the resort for the guests and public.

Ke Kula Nihau O Kekaha

Selected high school students at Ke Kula Niihau O Kekaha, a Hawaiian language Niihau dialect charter school on Kauai working with Jean Souza completed a semester's work translating Hawaiian language newspaper and journal articles about whales into the English language. The translation project, which focused on old Hawaiian language sources, is designed to improve the students' use of English for these native speakers of Hawaiian language, while providing the sanctuary with news accounts from an era when native Hawaiians populations were larger than what exists today. The principal/educator

at Ke Kula Niihau O Kekaha, who has worked to involve the sanctuary in the school's curriculum, has been selected as one of the teachers joining the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve's teacher cruise to the NWHI in August.

Sanctuary supports agency partners to protect endangered monk seals

Jeff Walters and NOAA Fisheries' Chris Yates of the Pacific Islands Regional Office coordinated and conducted a series of four meetings on Kauai in preparation for anticipated births of the endangered Hawaiian monk seals on popular Kauai beaches. Assisting at the meetings were Department of Land and Natural Resources Marine Mammal (MM) Coordinator Dr. Mimi Olry and David Nichols, Jean Souza, and NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement special agent Paul Newman. The meetings were designed to help finalize protocols and procedures for a multi-agency and community response to a monk seal birth. Hawaiian monk seals are the most endangered seal species in the United States. Monk seal pupping events at popular (human) beaches can affect public use and safety, however they also provide unique opportunities for community outreach and awareness. The meetings were attended by County, State and Federal agency representatives, representatives of key visitor industry organizations, and 25 key community volunteers. The meetings were held at the sanctuary office in Lihue.

Justin Viezbicke also assisted with activities related to the endangered Hawaiian monk seals both in the field and with outreach activities. Justin assisted with the monitoring of a monk seal mom and pup at Hakalau Beach on the Big Island of Hawaii to verify if both seals are spending time in a fresh water stream. He also presented a talk on Big Island monk seals as part of the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Program's ReefTalk Series. Justin's presentation provided basic information on monk seals as well as information on how the public can help us identify haul out locations and monitor the population.

Justin Viezbicke met with Chris Yates, marine mammal section chief for NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office, and the Big Island staff of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement on Tuesday July 26. The purpose of the meeting was to further the relationships and coordination between federal and state entities on marine mammal protection on the Big Island.

National Alliance Educators meet in Kona

Naomi McIntosh was invited to present to a group of National Alliance Educators associated with ocean themed parks. The meeting was held at Dolphin Quest at the Hilton Waikaloa on the Big Island. The presentation focused on how the Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was working to meet the goals and objectives of the NMSP.

Honu Evening at Hanauma Bay

The Sanctuary partnered with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant's Hanauma Bay Education Program and the City and County of Honolulu Parks and Recreation Department to host an evening event entitled "Honu Evening" at the Hanauma Bay

Nature Preserve, Island of Oahu. Over 250 people attended this event, which featured four guest speakers who educated the public about a variety of different sea turtle topics. In addition, appropriate organizations were invited to set up posters and displays showing their current efforts and other booths offered educational activities for children. This is the fifth quarterly event that the sanctuary has co-sponsored with Hanauma Bay.

Sanctuary provides outreach at Keauhou Shopping Center

Justin Viezbicke participated in the Discovery Days event at the Keauhou Shopping Center, Island of Hawaii, on July 23. This event, which is geared for kids, gave them an opportunity to learn and experience new and exciting activities that focus on conservation and environmentalism. The Sanctuary booth featured the "Whale of Fortune" game, where participants spin the wheel and answer a whale question. It is a fun way to assess the level of participant knowledge and establish a one-on-one relationship.

HIHWNMS supports NOAA's partnership with the National Geographic Society Field Studies Program to Promote Ocean Literacy

From August 4-9, 2005, HIHWNMS helped to host 12 teacher and student pairs participating in the National Marine Sanctuaries Field Studies Program on Coconut Island off Oahu, Hawaii, along with staff from NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program and the National Geographic Society. The HIHWNMS led hands-on ocean field studies based on educational standards, including subject areas such as geology, marine science, water systems, habitat monitoring, and exploration designed to teach participants about Hawaii's marine environment and to promote a stewardship ethic for the protection of our nation's marine resources.

Miscellaneous

Jean Souza, Operations Coordinator Paul Wong, and Patty Miller traveled to Georgia to represent the sanctuary at the annual National Marine Sanctuary education coordinator's meeting and the Dive Into Education Workshop.

Christine Brammer traveled to American Samoa to participate and support efforts for the Ocean Fest and Ocean Symposium at Fagatele Bay NMS.

On June 16th, Justin Viezbicke attended the West Hawaii Fishery Council monthly meeting and briefed council members on the humpback whale monitoring protocols that the Sanctuary helped develop in March and April of this year to assess potential impacts from the Kona Blue Water Farm open ocean aquaculture project.

Justin Viezbicke attended an Interpretive Training seminar at Hawaiian Volcanoes National Park on June 7. This seminar, taught by Dr. Sam Ham of the University of Utah, focused on successful and effective interpretation models and how these models can really help to provoke thought, beyond the normal regurgitation of facts, in the audience.

The Hawaii leadership team conducted a one-day planning meeting on June 21 to discuss and refine the FY06 Annual Operating Plan. The meeting was held at the Sanctuary office in Hawaii Kai.

Ed Lyman, formerly of Massachusetts, has been hired to help with whale rescue and research. Ed brings a whole suite of experiences in disentanglement, vessel operations, and underwater photography. Ed is one of the few individuals in the nation authorized to disentangle large whales. Most recently, he has helped design whale-safe fishing gear for the State of Massachusetts. Ed will be working out of the Kihei office.

Jean Souza participated in the quarterly meeting of the National Marine Education Executive Council for Pacific Islands regional representative Paul Wong on Maui.

Naomi McIntosh and Paul Wong participated in the 2nd annual Pacific Islands Regional Planning Meeting held on Maui. The meeting was conducted to provide an opportunity for the Sanctuary sites in the Pacific to share highlights from their FY06 AOP's and to look for regional opportunities to work together.

Planning for the NOAA Pacific Region Center on Ford Island in Honolulu, Hawaii is proceeding at a rapid pace. NOAA awarded a contract to the architects to design the facility that will consolidate the majority of NOAA offices and operations in Oahu. The architects have 42 weeks to produce a final design document that will include office space, laboratories, ship facilities, data center, storage and public spaces such as a visitor center, library and conference facilities. The various line offices met with the architects last week and were briefed on the timeline for their input and to finalize their offices' requirements in the next 12 weeks through a series of meetings that will be finalized in September.

In September, Sanctuary staff met with the architects designing the NOAA Pacific Region Center on Ford Island to further define the office space for the sanctuary program's Pacific Islands Region, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (NWHICRER), and Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. The sanctuary program will be located on the first floor of the facility near the visitor center, exhibits and conference facilities. Staff will continue to work with the architects to define other program space including laboratories, warehouse, dive center and a small boat facility.

The Sanctuary hosted several site visits for Congressional visitors at the Maui office to provide a general overview of programs being offered at the site and to provide an opportunity for participants to learn about NOAA and the NMSP.

The Sanctuary staff attended an all-hands meeting that was held on August 23, 2005 in the Sanctuary's Honolulu office. The staff was provided with updates from the Pacific Islands Region staff members and NWHICRER staff members, discussed FY 2006 sanctuary initiatives and participated in teambuilding activities.

Attachment 3

September 7, 2005

MEMORANDUM

To: Sanctuary Advisory Council, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

From: Jeff Walters, Sanctuary Co-Manager, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)

Subject: HIHWNMS state office update for the period of May 11, 2005 through September 7, 2005 (Prepared for the September 8, 2005, Council meeting).

DLNR Welcomes New Marine Mammal Branch, Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO), NOAA Fisheries Service

With the mobilization of PIRO's new Marine Mammal Branch over the summer, new energy, expertise and resources have been directed toward marine mammal conservation here in Hawaii. Chris Yates, the branch chief, has been building the program in productive partnership with the sanctuary program, DLNR and many other organizations over the past several months. (Chris has also recently begun serving as PIRO's acting assistant regional administrator for protected resources.) DLNR is happy to welcome Chris and his program to Hawaii and to the federal-state partnership for marine wildlife conservation first established via NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary.

PIRO's Marine Mammal Branch represents NOAA's Fisheries Service as the federal agency in Hawaii responsible for implementation and enforcement of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (with regard to all of Hawaii's cetaceans and monk seals) and the Endangered Species Act (with regard to monk seals, sea turtles, sperm whales and humpback whales). NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary has separate federal authority and responsibility to protect humpback whales and their habitat in Hawaii under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. DLNR has its own authority and responsibility to implement and enforce Hawaii's state aquatic resource conservation statutes and regulations. As proof to the enhanced partnership now in effect, many of the sanctuary-sponsored state program activities mentioned in this report are directly involved with the new Marine Mammal Branch in one way or another.

Education and Outreach

State conservation specialist, David Nichols, and West Hawaii coordinator, Justin Viezbicke, continued to be active in a variety of education and outreach activities during the reporting period. Justin attended Jack's Diving Locker Ocean Fair on May 14th, where he manned a sanctuary information booth and gave a presentation on Big Island

monk seals. David Nichols joined Oahu programs coordinator Christine Brammer in staffing a booth at the Ko'olina Boat Show and giving presentations on safe boating around marine wildlife on May 21-22. On June 15th, Justin partnered with the public libraries in Holualoa and Kona to work with children on summer time humpback whale educational activities. Justin also continued his work with UH Sea Grant introducing kids in Milolii to marine conservation issues on June 20-21. In July, Justin gave a presentation on identifying marine mammals to the Hawaii Preparatory Academy and partnered with UH Sea Grant giving a reef talk on Hawaiian monk seals and how local community members can get involved in seal conservation.

State staff also met with Trevor Spradlin of the NOAA Fisheries Service Protected Resources Division and PIRO's Chris Yates regarding the finalization of two 30-second TV public service announcements produced by the state sanctuary office with funding from NOAA Fisheries. Look for these announcements regarding stranding response and marine wildlife viewing regulations to air on local TV stations this coming whale season.

Cetacean Stranding and Entanglement Response

David Nichols and Justin Viezbicke attended dolphin necropsy training presented by the Hawaiian Islands Stranding Response Group (HISRG) on Oahu, June 11th. During August 8 through August 20, Viezbicke attended disentanglement training and research training on research vessels off New England and Canada with David Mattila, the sanctuary's science and rescue coordinator in association with the Center for Coastal Studies. While at sea off New England, Justin also participated in a fogbound yet successful humpback whale disentanglement led by Mattila.

Open Ocean Aquaculture Projects

Statewide - In an effort to enhance state coordination and communication on open ocean aquaculture (mariculture) development, the sanctuary co-manager facilitated communications and meetings between DLNR leadership and the state Department of Agriculture Deputy Director and Director of the Aquaculture Development Program. An agreement was reached to communicate early and often on future proposed cage locations and designs.

Kona Blue Water Farms, Keahole Pt., Big Island – Whale monitoring around the cages conducted by Viezbicke ceased with the end of whale season in May. The co-manager helped coordinate the update presentation to be presented by Kaona Blue's Neil Sims at this Council meeting.

Pacific Ocean Ventures, Ukumehame Gulch, Maui – The co-manager monitored the conference call held by the Council's research and conservation committees regarding the proposed project. He also met with POV's Lee Fukanaga and Mrs. Fukanaga to further discuss sanctuary concerns and share new whale distribution maps generated by Susan Vogt, spatial information coordinator with the sanctuary's Pacific Islands Regional Office.

Monk Seal Conservation

Kauai - Mimi Olry, DVM, state marine conservation coordinator on Kauai has had a busy summer managing dozens of monk seal haul outs, extensively tracking three hooked seals and eventually "dehooking" two seals, and "sealsitting" a seal pup born in the middle of the world famous Poipu Beach resort area. (Recall, Mimi's position is funded by PIRO via the sanctuary's contract with DLNR.) Working in coordination with the Kauai sanctuary office and Kauai programs coordinator, Jean Souza, Mimi is currently leading the effort to protect the pup and mother at Kaihuna Beach, Kauai. The

two seals are being protected from disturbance with the use of a roped-off perimeter staffed around the clock by sanctuary staff, DLNR staff, personnel with the Hawaii Wildlife Fund, and volunteers. Just like last year's pups at Poipu and Mahaulepu, hundreds of people have been coming to the beach to observe the pup and learn about his endangered species first hand. Media coverage has been extensive, ranging from local TV coverage to articles in mainland newspapers. Staff are also making sure people keep their distance for their own safety, since the 600 lb mother seal may try to bite people who get too close to her pup. The state's sanctuary staff are working in coordination with the general managers of the resort properties fronting the beach (under the management of Sheraton, Outrigger and Castle Resorts) to ensure that inconveniences and safety risks to their guests are kept to a minimum. David Nichols has been providing essential administrative support to the effort, shepherding procurement paperwork through the state system in order to quickly purchase fencing equipment and other urgently needed items.

Big Island – West Hawaii coordinator Justin Viezbicke held a meeting on June 17th with several government agencies, organizations and individuals to make sure that all interested parties were coordinated and working together on Big Island seal management. From late June through early August, Justin oversaw the monitoring and protection of the monk seal pup at the Hakalau shoreline area, near Hilo. He also gave public talks on monk seals at the beach park and summarized NOAA's plans to relocate the pup after it was weaned. The pup was closely monitored and relocated by NOAA Fisheries due to concerns regarding leptospirosis and human interactions in the area. The pup later died on Oahu while awaiting tests results for leptospirosis.

Spinner Dolphin Conservation

Statewide - State sanctuary staff joined DLNR Deputy Director Bob Masuda in the first meeting of the spinner dolphin working group sponsored by NOAA Fisheries Service, PIRO. The inter-agency group has been established by PIRO's new marine mammal branch to address the pressing issue of people swimming with dolphins in their critical resting habitats. A few days prior to the working group meeting, PIRO Administrator Bill Robinson and marine mammal branch chief Chris Yates met with DLNR leadership and sanctuary staff to discuss a coordinated approach to address spinner dolphin conservation issues across the state.

Big Island – West Hawaii coordinator, Justin Viezbicke, attended a DLNR-sponsored community meeting on May 12th regarding swim with dolphin activities and other marine management issues in Kealahou Bay. On September 6th, Justin also met with Trevor Spradlin and Jennifer Sepez of NOAA Fisheries to discuss Big Island spinner dolphin issues. Justin also facilitated meetings the next day with community members and stakeholder groups to discuss possible upcoming federal spinner dolphins protection regulations.

SPLASH Research Assistance

With the implementation of the new NOAA-DLNR federal services contract for sanctuary co-management services, the state office will once again administer SPLASH research funds and projects in the Main Hawaiian Islands during the winter of 2005-2006, the project's last winter season. State sanctuary staff are also expected to provide technical field support during the winter season.

NOAA Fisheries Service Cetacean Research Workshop and New Cetacean Research Program

In Late June, the co-manager attended a 2-day cetacean research workshop held by the NOAA Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center. This workshop marked the beginning of a new cetacean research program here in Hawaii. DLNR welcomes Dr. Dave Johnson, the new cetacean research coordinator. We look forward to collaborating with Dave's new program. A report on the workshop's findings regarding cetacean research priorities will be available soon.

Water Quality – Harbor Pumpout Update

State Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) administrator Richard Rice informed the co-manager that plans currently under DOBOR consideration for Maalaea Harbor improvements include gravity-fed waste water collection pipes at each slip.

US FWS Grant for State Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Strategy

The state office continues to administer the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (US FWS) State Wildlife Grant to develop a conservation strategy for Hawaii's aquatic wildlife. UH Pacific Cooperative Services Unit staff, Dr. Dwayne Meadows and Ms. Austin Lane Kane have completed the strategy with extensive stakeholder input over the summer. The strategy emphasizes continued and enhance collaboration and coordination with NOAA in marine protected species conservation. The final version of the strategy will be presented for approval by the Board of Land and Natural Resources and submitted to US FWS on September 9.

Other Activities, Meetings, Etc.

- 1) May 11 – Conservation specialist assisted with Manacat return from Maui to Oahu and storage at the DLNR's Sand Island facility.
- 2) May 12 – West Hawaii coordinator attended Kealahou Bay meeting regarding bay resource protection.
- 3) May 16 – Co-manager attended and chaired a meeting of the Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan Team of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council.
- 4) May 17-19 – Co-manager attended and represented DLNR at the Scientific and Statistical Committee meeting of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council.
- 5) May 19 – West Hawaii coordinator attended West Hawaii Fisheries Council meeting.
- 6) May 24 – Co-manager attended meeting of the DLNR Ocean and Coastal Council re review and revision of the state's Ocean Resources Management Plan.
- 7) May 25 – Co-manager briefed the DLNR Chairperson regarding issues to be covered at the upcoming Western Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting.
- 8) June 2 – Co-manager attended various sessions of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting.
- 9) June 3 - Co-manager and conservation specialist represented DLNR at inter-agency meeting regarding the state's application for an ESA Section 10, Incidental Take Permit.

- 10) June 6 - Co-manager listened in on joint SAC Research and Conservation Committee meeting conference call re proposed cage culture project off Olowalu, Maui.
- 11) June 7-9 - Attended Volcano's National Park Interpretive Training seminar.
- 12) June 7 - Co-manager met with DLNR Deputy Director Bob Masuda re swim with dolphin issues.
- 13) June 21 – Co-manager and West Hawaii coordinator attended a meeting regarding developing the sanctuary's FY 06 annual operating plan.
- 14) June 22 – 23 – Co-manager attended a cetacean research workshop held by the NOAA Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center.
- 15) June 27 – Co-manager joined sanctuary manager and West Hawaii coordinator in meeting with NELHA Executive Director re sanctuary activities and office lease arrangements at the NELHA facility.
- 16) July 7 – Co-manager, conservation specialist, federal Kauai programs coordinator, and state Kauai coordinator attended inter-agency planning meetings in preparation for monk seal births on crowded beaches on Kauai.
- 17) July 12 – Co-manager represented marine mammal concerns at meeting re establishing a West Hawaii Ocean Recreation Management Area to address ocean user conflicts along the Waianae coast.
- 18) July 19 - Co-manager represented DLNR at inter-agency meeting regarding the state's application for an ESA Section 10, Incidental Take Permit.
- 19) July 26 – Co-manager and Oahu conservation specialist joined West Hawaii coordinator and NOAA Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) Marine Mammal Branch Chief in inter-agency briefing re new marine mammal branch and brief snorkel inspection of the Kona Blue Water Farms fish cages off Keahole Pt.
- 20) July 27 – Co-manager represented DLNR at inter-agency meeting regarding the state's application for an ESA Section 10, Incidental Take Permit.
- 21) July 28 – Conservation specialist assisted with the pouring of concrete at DLNR's Sand Island facility in return for summer ManaCat storage privileges.
- 22) August 11 – Co-manager joined PIRO marine mammal branch chief and Kauai staff in inter-agency meeting re public safety concerns associated with monk seal pups on crowded Kauai beaches.
- 23) August 11 – Co-manager met with DLNR Chair and Deputy Director and PIRO Administrator and marine mammal branch chief re swim with dolphin issues and new PIRO initiatives to address these issues.
- 24) August 12 – Co-manager met with landscape architecture consultant re marine wildlife concerns and signage alternatives associated with proposed bike path and walkway along eastern Kauai coastline.
- 25) August 12 – Co-manager met with representatives of Pacific Ocean Ventures regarding proposed open ocean cage culture project locations and whale conservation concerns.
- 26) August 16 – Co-manager and West Hawaii coordinator attended staff planning meeting for new SPLASH education project.
- 27) August 23 – All four state staff attended the sanctuary's all hands meeting on Oahu.
- 28) August 26 – Co-manager joined SAC education committee conference call.
- 29) August 29 – Co-manager attended breakfast banquet hosted by the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce celebrating the 1,000th day of the Lingle administration. Governor Lingle recognized various DLNR staff for their accomplishments.

- 30) August 31 – Co-manager traveled to Kauai to meet with state Kauai coordinator, resort general managers and volunteers re newly born seal pup at Kiahuna Beach, Kauai.
- 31) September 1 – Co-manager, Oahu conservation specialist and DLNR Deputy Director attended the first meeting of the new spinner dolphin working group sponsored by PIRO's marine mammal branch.
- 32) September 7 – Co-manager and Oahu conservation specialist joined DAR administrator and DLNR Chair to discuss DLNR's ESA Section 10 ITP.
- 33) September 7 – Co-manager, Oahu conservation specialist, and DLNR Deputy Director met with Dept of Agriculture Deputy Director and Aquaculture Development Program (ADP) Director re open ocean cage culture concerns and enhanced inter-agency coordination.

cc: Peter T. Young, DLNR Chairperson
Francis G. Oishi, Acting DLNR-DAR Administrator
Allen Tom, NMSP Pacific Islands Regional Coordinator
Naomi McIntosh, Sanctuary Manager

Attachment 4

Joint Research and Conservation Committee position on proposed aquaculture activities off Olowalu, Maui by Pacific Ocean Ventures

Marc O. Lammers and Louis M. Herman (Chairs)

The Sanctuary Advisory Council's Research and Conservation Committees met jointly via conference call on June 6, 2005 to discuss proposed plans by Pacific Ocean Ventures (POV) to create an aquaculture facility approximately 1.25 miles offshore of Olowalu, Maui. The primary objectives of this meeting were to identify and evaluate concerns regarding the proposed site's location within the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and to discuss current and future research needs associated with aquaculture efforts in areas sensitive to wintering humpback whales.

Members of both committees agreed with the assessment that, based on extensive past and current scientific research, the location in question is part of a larger near-shore area off west Maui that is heavily occupied and utilized by humpback whales during the winter and spring months.

Given the documented importance of the area in question to humpback whales, five issues of concern were identified by members of both committees:

1. **Habitat loss** – Published studies show that aquaculture facilities can displace small cetaceans from an area normally used by them (e.g., Watson-Capps and Mann, 2005). Displacement of humpback whales from the proposed aquaculture area is considered likely, and probably would include some perimeter area surrounding the aquaculture cages and cables, although the specific radius of influence is not yet known.

2. **Attraction of predators** – The introduction of large quantities of fish species that represent potential prey for sharks is likely to result in an increased occurrence of large sharks in the area with increased threat to calves, particularly if they become separated from their mother.
3. **Collision by competitive pods** – Large (5-20+ animals) competitive whale pods occur unpredictably throughout west Maui waters, including the area proposed for use by Pacific Ocean Ventures. These pods consist of a single female and multiple males competing vigorously for proximity to the female. The pod is most often moving swiftly with animals stretched out both horizontally and linearly in a dynamic array of individuals. They are focused primarily on activity within the pod and observations show that they are relatively unresponsive to or unaware of activities outside the group. Under these conditions, collision with a large, fixed structure of cages and cables could occur. Collision would likely produce injury to the striking whale or whales and to the structure itself.
4. **Interaction with calves and juveniles** – Calves and juvenile whales are inexperienced and often appear curious and investigative. These whales, especially the juveniles, sometimes affiliate with vessels, at times even interacting physically with them, as in the familiar “mugging” effect. Curious calves or juvenile whales might interact with the cages and mooring lines of the proposed facility, putting them at risk of behavioral disruption or injury.
5. **Acoustic pollution** – POV predicts that the proposed facility will likely act as a Fish Aggregating Device, or FAD. This is expected to bring increased vessel traffic to the area from local fishermen targeting a new fishing ground. The resulting increased vessel traffic is likely to degrade the acoustic habitat, potentially displacing whales engaged in singing displays.

Given these concerns for the welfare of the whales and the disruption of a portion of a heavily used whale habitat, the members of both committees conclude that the POV facility or any similar facility should not be sited in the proposed area. Such use cannot be reconciled with the Sanctuary’s mission to protect the habitat and promote the recovery of humpback whales.

It was further concluded that more scientific research and analyses of the effects of open ocean aquaculture on humpback whales are needed to better engage in future discussions between the open ocean aquaculture industry and parties concerned with humpback whale conservation. Both committees recognized that aquaculture ventures, such as the one proposed by POV, will continue to remain at the forefront of the Sanctuary’s discussion agenda in the future. Consequently, it was deemed important that both the industry and the Sanctuary learn from existing ventures, in order to better evaluate future proposed projects and sites. Independent scientific research was deemed to be the most effective means of achieving this objective.

Attachment 5

SAC Education Committee
5 September 2005
Jeanne Russell, Chair

On August 26, 2005, the Education Committee held a conference call. Attending the meeting was Jeanne Russell, Keeley Belva, Jeffrey Walters, Donna Goodale, Patty Miller, Jean Souza, and Jeffrey Walters.

Items Discussed:

- A letter supporting educational cruises was discussed and approved. The final version of the document is attached.
- The Research Committee had requested that the Education Committee evaluate Sanctuary Staff Activities of Species Other than Humpback Whales. This request originated at a meeting the Research Committee had to gather more information about existing sanctuary activities for species other than Humpback Whales. The Research Committee was working on gather more information on other species to help the Change Committee decide if adding other species would be a wise decision. The report is attached.
- The NMEA Conference was discussed and highlights given. Sessions were taught by sanctuary staff members Jean Souza, Patty Miller, and Chris Brammer. Donna Goodale and Sara Peck were in attendance. NMSP co-sponsored the event and the Pacific Islands Region hosted. Next year the NMEA Conference will be held in New York on July 15 -22, 2006. Scholarships are available. Contact Ann Coopersmith at coopersm@hawaii.edu for more details.
- Education Strategic Plan – Jean Souza told the committee that the staff is beginning to develop an education plan and will be looking for the committees input in the future.
- Reselection of Education Representatives – Keeley reminded the representatives that their terms were expiring shortly. Jeanne asked for someone to co-chair the committee in order to have a continuance of the committee’s work.
- Budget Presentation – The committee requested an update on what budget priorities (specifically relating to education) were proposed for FY06.
- The staff at the sanctuary is working on preparing a schedule of sanctuary activities on each island to be distributed at SAC meetings. Chris Brammer said they hope to have this in place for the next SAC meeting. In the meantime, SAC members can get event announcements if they signup for the listserver. Directions are on the homepage at hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov.

- The National Geographic and NOAA hosted students on field study on August 4-9, 2005 at the Maui Sanctuary. It was a success. For a full report, see the manager's report.
- On February 20-24, 2006, there is the 2006 Ocean Science Meeting in Honolulu. As of yet, the sanctuary is not involved in the meeting as we know.

September 8, 2005

DRAFT

Dear Ms. McIntosh:

In your Sanctuary Manager's Report dated May 12, 2005 addressed to the Sanctuary Advisory Council, you mentioned an Hi`ialakai Education Cruise. During the week of May 2, 2005, the NOAA ship Hi`ialakai sailed on an education cruise through the main Hawaiian Islands. On each island, forty high school students and teachers spent a day participating in marine biology and oceanography activities.

The Sanctuary Advisory Council Education Committee would like to applaud these efforts. This exemplifies what the sanctuary efforts are all about – the continuation of knowledge and education related to endangered species. We feel strongly that the children are the protectors of the sea. The more we can increase their knowledge and understanding the more they will grow to share in the responsibility to protect them. What better way to educate them then by taking them into their natural environment and teaching them firsthand?

The Education Committee of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council would like to fully support such efforts and to endorse and encourage future efforts by NOAA to use the ship Hi`ialakai and/or other vessels to educate Hawaii's youth.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Russell
Chair, Sanctuary Advisory Council Education Committee

Cc: Dr. Jeffery Walters, Sanctuary Co-Manager, HIHWNMS
Terry O'Halloran, Chair, Sanctuary Advisory Council